Pictorial health warnings

2671. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deep insecurity amongst tobacco growers on the extreme orders related to depiction of large pictorial warning on packets of cigarettes and beedis;

(b) the reaction of Government on the demands of millions of tobacco growers to implement rules on a moderate and reasonable pace;

(c) whether Government have offered financial relief to tobacco growers associations to counter depressed sales;

(d) the steps proposed to balance action and ground realities which pervade small and marginal tobacco farmers in dry areas; and

(e) the steps proposed to review extreme anti-tobacco legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The Government has notified 'The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2006' on 5th July 2006 relating to specified warnings, which include skull & cross bones and other pictorial warnings, that are required to be printed on tobacco product packs. The Rules would be implemented with effect from Ist February 2007.

The Rules were framed after obtaining inputs and after detailed discussion(s) with the Industry/Associations. The rules were also properly field tested for their positive public health impact before being notified.

Public health measures such as pictorial health warnings being out the adverse health implications of tobacco into the public domain and make the society aware of the harmful consequences of tobacco. The pictorial health warning would, therefore, go a long way in improving the overall health & economy of the nation.

Warning sign on cigarette packets

2672. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations to avoid extreme measures, including large pictures on packets of tobacco products;

(b) whether it is a fact that such warning signs are not in practice in other countries;

(c) the steps Government would take to carefully and moderately use the law; and

(d) the steps proposed to consider views of farmers and workers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The bidi industry has voiced its concern on the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labeling) Rules, 2006 relating to specified warnings. They have represented stating that the requirement of printing of pictorial warning on the packages of bidis may be reconsidered.

Many countries have introduced regulations related to health warnings on tobacco project packs including perminent pictorial warning. Health warning messages with pictures help in bringing awareness on the harmful effects of tobacco. Such positive public health measures are expected to discourage consumption of tobacco on the long run and help improve the overall health & economy of the nation.

Construction of CGHS building at Gurgaon

2673. SHRI KAMALAKHTAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plot of land was allotted by HUDA for construction of dispensary building at Gurgaon;

(b) if so, the present status of the plan being submitted to the concerned authorities;

(c) whether it is also a fact that HUDA has served notice for forfeiture of the land allotted in view of the fact that the construction has not been started in the stipulated time; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to take immediate action in the